

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7-18 and 29 are pending with entry of this amendment. Claims 1, 5 and 16 are amended.

Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of Claim 6, and Claim 6 is cancelled. Claim 1 is also amended to incorporate the language found in the specification at page 45, lines 24-35 and page 44, lines 31-32: "the writing is carried out... using laser light with an energy density of a light pulse between 10 mJ/cm² and 100 mJ/cm²". Accordingly, no new matter is entered with these amendments.

Claims 5 and 16 are amended to correct antecedent basis problems, as discussed further below.

Claim 7 is amended to correct dependency and to remove the variables Q^{2'}, S^{2'} and T^{2'}, as these are not shown in the chemical structures.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 5 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite because certain terms in the claims are said to lack antecedent basis. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection as it may pertain to the amended claims. Claim 16 is amended to replace "further" layer with "covering" layer and to indicate that the dye-containing layer is the light active layer. Claim 5 is amended to depend from Claim 3. Accordingly, the §112 rejection should be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 2, 4, 8-13, 15-17 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Kim et al., Appl. Phys. Lett. Vol. 66(10)(1995);

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-13, 15, 17 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Hvilsted et al., Optics Lett., Vol. 17(17)(1992);

Claims 1-7, 9, 10, 12, 14-16 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Yamamoto et al., U. S. 6,650,615;

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-13, 15, 17 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Hvilsted et al., Macromol., Vol. 28(7) (1995);

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-12, 15, 17 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Natansohn et al., WO 93/03073;

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-12, 15, 17 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Stumpe et al., DE 4339862;

Claims 1, 2, 4, 8-13, 15-17 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Elmasry U.S. 4,666,819; and

Claims 1, 2, 4, 8-13, 15-17 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Savant et al., 5,384,221.

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections as they may pertain to the amended claims.

A significant difference between the dye-containing polymers of the cited references and the polymers of the present invention is the absence of the azo group $-N=N-$ in the anisotropic group in Formula II, now present in Claim 1. Claim 1 contains the express language "...with the proviso that none of the groups X^2 and X^3 may denote $-N=N-$ ". None of the cited references disclose a block copolymer with side chains corresponding to Formula I and an anisotropic group of Formula II.

Additionally, none of the cited references disclose an optical writing process wherein the writing is carried out using laser light with an energy density of a light pulse between 10 mJ/cm^2 and 100 mJ/cm^2 and with an intensity of between 0.15 mW and 100 mW. Applicants submit that none of the above references disclose all aspects of Claim 1, or the claims depending therefrom, and therefore respectfully request withdrawal of all §102 rejections.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 2, 4, 8-13, 15-17 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious in view of Savant et al., 5,384,221, as combined with Elmasry; and

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-13, 15, 17 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious in view of Hvilsted et al., Macromol., Vol. 28(7) (1995), as combined with Ninomiya et al., U.S. 5,691,092 or Akashi, EP 669548. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection as it may pertain to the amended claims.

As noted above, the polymers of the present invention do not have an azo group $-N=N-$ in the anisotropic group in Formula II, and the optical writing process is carried out using laser light with an energy density of a light pulse between 10

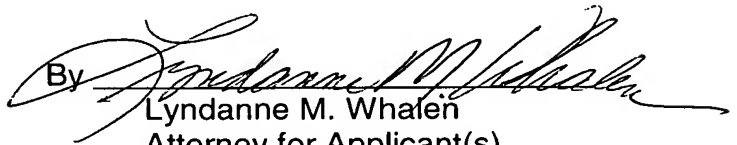
mJ/cm² and 100 mJ/cm² and with an intensity of between 0.15 mW and 100 mW. The cited references do not disclose or suggest these aspects of the present invention.

Applying these conditions it is possible to write pits into the data medium which can be clearly identified by a reading laser because of the sharp signal drop at the edges of the written pits. This effect is not mentioned in any of the references. Applicants submit that Claim 1, and the claims depending therefrom, Claims 2-5, 7-18 and 29, are not obvious in view of the cited references. Withdrawal of the §103 rejections is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that all outstanding issues have been addressed and that Claims 1-5, 7-18 and 29 are in condition for allowance; such action is respectfully requested at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,

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